

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

[c1] 1. A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast information stream at a first data rate at a headend;

inserting one or more packets from a local information stream into the broadcast information stream to form a combined information stream; and

transmitting the combined information stream to the user device at a second data rate.

[c2] 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c3] 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

[c4] 4. A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:

combining a broadcast information stream at a first data rate and a local information stream to form a combined information stream at a second data rate; and

receiving the combined information stream at the user device.

[c5] 5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c6] 6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

[c7] 7. A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast information stream including one or more packets unusable to the user device;

inserting one or more local information packets in place of the unusable packets, to form a combined information stream; and

transmitting the combined information stream to the user device.

[c8] 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c9] 9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

[c10] 10. A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:

a headend coupled to the user device;

a local information source coupled to the headend; and

a broadcast information source coupled to the headend, the system configured to:

receive a broadcast information stream from the broadcast information source at a first rate at the headend;

insert one or more packets from a local information stream from the local information source into the broadcast information stream to form a combined information stream; and

transmit the combined information stream to the user device at a second data rate.

[c11] 11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c12] 12. The system according to claim 10, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

[c13] 13. A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:

a broadcast information stream at a first data rate; and

a local information stream, the system configured to:

combine the broadcast information stream and the local information stream to form a combined information stream at a second data rate; and

receive the combined information stream at the user device.

[c14] 14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c15] 15. The system according to claim 13, wherein the first data rate is around 20Mbps and the second data rate is around 25Mbps.

[c16] 16. A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:

 a headend coupled to the user device;

 a local information source coupled to the headend; and

 a broadcast information source coupled to the headend,

the system configured to:

 receive a broadcast information stream including one or more packets unneeded by the user device;

 insert one or more local information packets in place of the unneeded packets, to form a combined information stream; and

 transmit the combined information stream to the user device.

[c17] 17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c18] 18. The system according to claim 16, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

[c19] 19. A broadcast information source configured to transmit a broadcast information stream, wherein one or more packets associated with a local information stream are inserted into one or more unneeded packet locations in the broadcast information stream.

[c20] 20. A broadcast information source configured to transmit a broadcast information stream at a first data rate, wherein one or more packets associated with a local information stream are inserted into the broadcast information stream to form a combined information stream, the combined information stream transmitted at a second data rate different from the first data rate.